

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jennie Salazar on 30 June 2010.

In the Claims:

In claim 33, line 1: "transmitting axial load" has been changed to --transmitting an axial load--;

In claim 33, line 6: "so as" has been deleted;

In claim 33, line 8: "and axial supports allow adjacent ring members so as to" has been changed to --and said plurality of axial supports allow adjacent ring members to--;

In claim 33, line 10: "and axial support" has been changed to --and said plurality of axial supports--;

In claim 33, line 11: "the axial support" has been changed to --the plurality of axial supports--;

In claim 33, lines 13 - 14: "comprises pairs of links extending between a plurality of connection points" has been changed to --comprises pairs of links, each of said pairs of links extending between a connection point--;

In claim 33, line 16: "a pair" has been changed to --one of said pairs--;

In claim 34, lines 2 - 4: “,and at the other end is separated from the other ring member by a small distance such that when an axial compressive load is applied to the tool, the axial link is contacted by the other ring member” has been changed to --and is separated at another end from the one of the ring members by a small distance such that when an axial compressive load is applied to the tool, the each axial link is contacted by the another ring member--.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEAN D. ANDRISH whose telephone number is (571)270-3098. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 7:30am - 5:00pm, Alternate Fri off, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Shane Bomar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3676

SDA
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